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Kernan Announces Grant to Train 243 at Evansville's Wabash Plastics, Inc.

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that Evansville's Wabash Plastics, Inc. has been awarded \$60,200 from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund.

Located in Vanderburgh County, Wabash Plastics, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of high-quality custom injection molded parts and is a certified supplier to Whirlpool Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Carrier Corp., Elkay Manufacturing and York.

Wabash Plastics, Inc. will use the grant to train 19 new and 224 existing employees following the company's \$1.5 million investment in building and equipment upgrades. Employees will pick up mold repair, blueprint reading, hydraulics, forklift operation and computer skills as a result of the funding.

"Wabash Plastics, Inc. is investing in its workforce at the same time it's investing in new technology, and that's a winning combination," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts. "Strong employee skills are key to the success of any business, and we're proud to support this company's training efforts."

Established in 1973 as a privately held custom injection molding company, today Wabash Plastics, Inc. operates 44 molding machines ranging in size from 165 to 1,000 tons and utilizes the latest state-of-the-art plastic technologies.

"Wabash has substantially reduced prices each year, and we continue to look for ways to become more efficient" said Ed Furniss, vice president and plant manager of Wabash Plastics, Inc. "The Skills Enhancement Fund grant is needed to assist Wabash with additional training to improve efficiencies, reduce costs and improve our competitive position."

Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Business Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web Site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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